

## Notes on the Lepidoptera-Rhopalocera of Tasmania

By

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These notes supplement a previous contribution (1946) to a knowledge of the Tasmanian butterfly fauna.

### *Lampides baeticus damoëtes* Fab. 1775

For many years this butterfly has been excluded from the list of Tasmanian species. Turner (1926, 1939) does not mention it, despite that Rainbow (1907) included Tasmania within its range. Waterhouse and Lyell (1914) omitted it, and Waterhouse (1932) wrote 'but not yet recorded from Tasmania.' The same writer (1937), however, noted it as 'recently reeorded from Tasmania.' I can find no published record other than this note, but I am now able to confirm its position in the local list.

A. Musgrave <sup>(1)</sup> notes *in litt* that there is a male and female taken by D. E. McIntyre at Launceston in the Waterhouse Coll. in the Australian Museum, Sydney. In addition, S. Angel possesses two males taken at Hobart, 4 March, 1943, and January, 1946, the latter partially crippled.

Other collectors claim to have seen specimens, but these records at least serve to show that *b. damoëtes*, if rare, is occasionally to be found in the island. I had believed that *b. damoëtes* in Tasmania, at the extreme southern point of its easterly range, offered a parallel to *b. baeticus* in southern England, at the most northerly point in its western range, in that it was a casual migrant blown across the straits by the northerly summer winds, as is possible with the specimens of *Anapheis java teutonia* Fab. that have been recorded. The alternative is introduction with shipments of peas, and the partially crippled specimen taken by S. Angel at Hobart would support this theory, since the specimen in question could not have flown any distance. It seems likely however that the winter climate in Tasmania does not allow this species to establish itself here.

### *Trapezites lutea glaucus* W. & L., 1914

Waterhouse (1934) has a brief note of the early stages of *l. lutea* Tepper 1882, but no details have been published of the life history of the Tasmanian form, so that the part history I am now able to record is the more interesting.

On 10 November, 1945, a Trapezitine larva was found on *Xerotes longifolia* at Kingston; the plant together with the larva was transferred to my garden in

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(<sup>1</sup>) I inadvertently confused A. Musgrave, to whom I am indebted for much help, with A. J. Musgrave in my previous notes. I take the opportunity of rectifying this error to prevent future confusion—(L.E.C.).

Hobart. I consider this larva was in its last instar, since no change was noted until it was full fed on 3 February, 1946. Its length then was 27 mm., in shape humped, tapering sharply to the head and tail. Head brownish-black, rugose, central cleft deep black. Body slightly rough, fawn-grey tinged pink, faint black line along centre of back, a dorsal spot of the same colour on each segment. The larval shelter consisted of a few fine threads of silk on the inner surface of a leaf near the base of the plant, but the larva left this shelter when full fed and wandered for several days until finally pupating some distance from the larval shelter on 27 February, 1946, by drawing the tips of two leaves together with a silken pad, in which it pupated head upwards.

The pupa was 22 mm. long, 5.5 mm. broad across the wing cases, in colour stone tinged with pink, segments mottled with dark-brown spots, wing cases light-stone in colour, mouth parts and antennal covers dark-brown, terminal segment and cremaster reddish-brown. The whole pupa, except wing and antennal and mouth part cases, densely covered with minute hairs, light-stone in colour; cremaster ending in a short tuft of hairs.

A normal female emerged 31 March, 1946.

J. R. Cunningham also found a well-grown larva on *Xerotes* at Kingston in November, 1945; this larva was lost early in 1946 when full fed and about to pupate, due to its habit of wandering far from the larval shelter.

A further stage in the life history of this species was noted in November, 1946, when a captive female was induced to lay several eggs on the same plant of *Xerotes* in my garden. The egg is white, faintly tinged greenish in colour, dome-shaped, 1.25 mm. high, 0.8 mm. in diameter, flattened at base, with 17 vertical ribs joined at the circular ridge surrounding the shallow micropyle.

I have notes of the capture of this species in southern and eastern Tasmania from 5 November, throughout December and January, and again in March, though it would appear to be more common in November and January.

The details of the life history as far as we know it would indicate that in Tasmania *I. glaucus* has a two year life cycle.

### *Suniana l. lascivia* Rosenstock, 1885

This species has been included in the Tasmanian lists for years, but seemingly with a deal of doubt as to the authenticity of the record. Meyrick and Lower (1902) note it from Hobart, and Lower (1911) from Tasmania; Turner (1926) lists it from Hobart, but *in litt* Dr. Turner notes that he used Lower's record, and doubts whether *I. lascivia* is Tasmanian, since Lower was certainly careless in his localities, and personally he had neither taken nor seen a specimen from the island.

A fairly close search by S. Angel, J. R. Cunningham and myself during a number of seasons in southern Tasmania has failed to turn up a specimen, and with the discovery of two specimens in the Tasmanian Coll. at the Tasmanian Museum, Hobart, which bear labels 'G. A. Waterhouse, Sydney', I am reasonably certain the species has no place in our lists, since it is likely that the later records at least may rest on these misplaced specimens.

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